

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A biodegradable composition comprising:
between 40 and 85% by weight of poly(lactic acid),
between 10 and 40% by weight of poly(epsilon caprolactone),
~~between 5 and 10% by weight magnesium silicate~~, and
an organic peroxide in an amount up to 5% by weight, each on the basis of the total weight of the biodegradable composition.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The biodegradable composition according to claim 1, said composition comprising at least magnesium and silicon.

Claim 3 (canceled):

Claim 4 (previously presented): The biodegradable composition according to claim 3, to which composition during its preparation less than 2% of an organic peroxide, on the basis of the total weight of the final biodegradable composition, has been added.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The biodegradable composition according to claim 4, to which composition during its preparation between 0.1 to 1.8% of an organic peroxide, on the basis of the total weight of the final biodegradable composition, has been added.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The biodegradable composition according to claim 3, wherein said organic peroxide is selected from the group consisting of diacetyl peroxide, cumyl-hydro-peroxide, dibenzoyl peroxide, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(terbutylperoxy)-hexane, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 7-10 (cancelled):

Claim 11 (previously presented): A film or coating comprising a biodegradable composition, said biodegradable composition comprising:

between 40 and 85% by weight of poly(lactic acid),

between 10 and 40% by weight of poly(epsilon caprolactone), and

between 5 and 10% by weight of magnesium silicate, and

an organic peroxide in an amount up to 5% by weight, wherein said organic peroxide is added to a mixture of said poly(lactic acid) and poly(epsilon caprolactone),

a co-polyester polymer with adipic acid in an amount of less than 5% by weight on the basis of the total weight of the composition,

each on the basis of the total weight of the biodegradable composition.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The film or coating according to claim 11, wherein said film or coating is on an article comprising a material selected from the group consisting of paper, plastics, wood and composite materials.

Claim 13 (cancelled):

Claim 14 (previously presented): The film or coating according to claim 11, to which composition during its preparation less than 2% of an organic peroxide, on the basis of the total weight of the final biodegradable composition, has been added.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The film or coating according to claim 11, to which composition during its preparation between 0.1 to 1.8% of an organic peroxide, on the basis of the total weight of the final biodegradable composition.

Claim 16 (original): The film or coating according to claim 15, wherein said organic peroxide is selected from the group consisting of diacetyl peroxide, cumyl hydro peroxide, and dibenzoyl peroxide.

Claim 17 (cancelled):

Claim 18 (previously presented): The film or coating according to claim 11, said biodegradable composition further comprising at least two of the elements selected from the group consisting of magnesium, aluminum, and silicon.

Claim 19 (original): The film or coating according to claim 11, said composition further comprising plasticizers.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The film or coating according to claim 11, said composition further comprising up to 5% of a mono-ester, on the basis of the total weight of the biodegradable composition.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A molded or formed article comprising a biodegradable composition, the biodegradable composition comprising between 40 and 85% by weight of poly(lactic acid), between 10 and 40% by weight of poly(epsilon caprolactone), between 5 and 10% by weight of magnesium silicate, and an organic peroxide in an amount up to 5% by weight, wherein the organic peroxide is added to a mixture of the poly(lactic acid) and poly(epsilon caprolactone), each on the basis of the total weight of the biodegradable composition.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A molded or formed article according to claim 21, wherein said molded or formed article is selected from the group consisting of utensils, table service-ware forks, spoons, knives, chopsticks, containers, cups, foam material products, and pots.

Claim 23 (previously presented): An article comprising a section made of a material selected from the group consisting of paper, plastics, wood and composite materials, said section being coated with a coating or a film, said coating or film comprising between 40 and 85% by weight of poly(lactic acid), between 10 and 40% by weight of poly(epsilon caprolactone), and between 5 and 10% by weight of magnesium silicate each on the basis of the total weight of the coating or film, wherein an organic peroxide in an amount up to 5% by weight is added to a mixture of said poly(lactic acid) and poly(epsilon caprolactone) on the basis of the total weight of the coating or film, and comprising a co-polyester polymer with adipic acid in an amount of less than 5% by weight on the basis of the total weight of the composition.

Claim 24 (previously presented): An article of claim 23, said article being selected from the group consisting of food service-ware, plates, cups, packaging, cardboard boxes, and trays.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method of producing an article comprising a biodegradable composition, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a biodegradable composition, said composition comprising
between 40 and 85% by weight of poly(lactic acid),
between 10 and 40% by weight of poly(epsilon caprolactone), and
a co-polyester polymer with adipic acid in an amount of less than 5% by weight on the basis of the total weight of the composition,
between 5 and 10% by weight of mineral particles, comprising magnesium silicate, each on the basis of the total weight of the biodegradable composition, wherein an organic acid in an amount up to 5% by weight is added to a mixture of poly(lactic acid) and poly(epsilon caprolactone) on the basis of the total weight of the final biodegradable composition; and
preparing a film or coating from said composition.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A method of producing a biodegradable composition, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a composition comprising between 40 and 85% by weight of poly(lactic acid), between 10 and 40% by weight of poly(epsilon caprolactone), an organic peroxide in an amount up to 5% by weight, and between 5 and 10% by weight of mineral particles, comprising magnesium silicate, each on the basis of the total weight of the biodegradable composition;

(ii) mixing the constituents of (i);

(iii) heating the mixture to a temperature 160°C to 210°C; and

(iv) forming the resultant mixture to obtain a desired shape.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 25 including the step of applying said film or coating on an article comprising a material selected from the group consisting of paper, plastics, wood and composite materials.

Claims 28-30 (cancelled):